

Public Notice
Sussex Water Department

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Sussex Water Department Did Not Meet Treatment Requirements

Our water system has violated drinking water requirements for turbidity several times. These violations had the potential to adversely impact public health. Although this is not an emergency you as our customers have a right to know what happened, what you should do and what we are doing to correct the situation.

Sussex Water Department extensively treats water using a series of filters and other processes to provide you with drinking water. We are required to filter and disinfect that water and to perform continuous monitoring of turbidity (cloudiness) levels from each individual filter and from the combined filters. Turbidity levels are an indicator of whether we are effectively filtering the water supply. Elevated levels of turbidity increase the chance that the water might contain disease-causing organisms and may require additional action to ensure the treatment plant is adequately filtering the water supply. Over the timeframe of at least January 2011 to February 2014 turbidity values recorded at the individual filters were high enough (over 2 nephelometric turbidity units (NTU)) to trigger the requirement to conduct a Comprehensive Performance Evaluation (CPE) of the treatment plant, which was to have been done within 120 days of the exceedance. A Comprehensive Performance Evaluation is a thorough review of the administration, design, and operation of the treatment plant. Our failure to conduct the Comprehensive Performance Evaluation is considered a violation.

More recently, on July 4 2014, the water treatment plant experienced a violation of the Maximum Contaminant Level for turbidity. The highest recorded level was 4.39 NTU, which was above the allowable standard of 1 NTU. The source of the exceedance began with elevated turbidity in the Colesville Reservoir source water supply from a major rain event. Because of these high levels of turbidity, there is an increased chance that the water may contain disease causing organisms.

What Does This Mean?

This is not an emergency. **Turbidity has no health effects. However, turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth. Turbidity may indicate the presence of disease causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites which can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches.** These symptoms may be caused by other factors unrelated to organisms in drinking water. If you experience any of these symptoms and they persist, you may want to seek medical advice.

What Should I Do?

At this time, there is nothing you need to do. You do not need to boil your water or take other actions and do not need to use and alternate (e.g., bottled) water supply. The violation listed above has been addressed and is not currently ongoing.

What is being done?

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) has required Sussex Water Department to contract with an independent party to conduct, complete and implement a Comprehensive Performance Evaluation of the water treatment plant. NJDEP is also requiring Sussex Water Department to evaluate and demonstrate that it has adequate technical, managerial and financial resources to conduct all the activities associated with running its water system.

For more information, please contact Mike Furrey Licensed Operator for the Sussex Water Department at 973 875-6882. This Notice contains important information about our drinking water. If you do not understand it, please have someone explain it to you.

Este Aviso contiene información muy importante sobre su agua beber. Tradúzcalo ó hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

Este Notificação contem informações importantes sobre a sua água de beber. Traduza-o ou fale com alguém que o compreenda.

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.